

**From:** [Schleusner, Cliff](#)  
**To:** [FW2 FOIA](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Retirement  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018 3:09:57 PM

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## 19-00018\_FOIA re Ted Koch departure (Records due Oct 25, 2018)

Cliff Schleusner, Chief - Region 2  
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 1306  
Suite 8514  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

(505) 248-7465  
[cliff\\_schleusner@fws.gov](mailto:cliff_schleusner@fws.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Koch, Ted** <[ted\\_koch@fws.gov](mailto:ted_koch@fws.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 1:00 PM  
Subject: Retirement  
To: FW2 ES <[fw2\\_es@fws.gov](mailto:fw2_es@fws.gov)>, FW2 RDT <[fw2\\_rdt@fws.gov](mailto:fw2_rdt@fws.gov)>, Gary Frazer <[gary\\_frazer@fws.gov](mailto:gary_frazer@fws.gov)>, Gina Shultz <[Gina\\_Shultz@fws.gov](mailto:Gina_Shultz@fws.gov)>, FWS ES Regional ARDs <[fws\\_es\\_regional\\_ards@fws.gov](mailto:fws_es_regional_ards@fws.gov)>

Hello-

I am retiring from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service August 31. That is hard for me to say.

When I was 16 years old living in Connecticut I knew I wanted to be a biologist, and after coming to grips with the fact that the public sector was where it's at, I thought about working for a state wildlife agency. Then I thought, wouldn't it be cool if there was a federal fish and game? That's who I'd want to work for, living in the west with a beautiful wife and 2.3 children (dogs, cats, herps), working on cool conservation projects. Turns out I was lucky, and I have truly been living the dream for the last 30 years.

So why give it up? First, I never intended to be a government employee for an entire career, but I just did, and at age 54 that career is now mostly behind me. And second, it's because I had another dream. When I was 23 I shot my first elk, and when I told my parents, they said, "but you're supposed to save wildlife!" Since then I realized hunter/anglers and non-hunter/anglers are too often apart when they shouldn't be. My dream was to occupy a space in between where a shared interest in conservation lives. To do so, I plan to reinvigorate my active support for bringing all types of conservationists together. And I plan to walk the talk by hunting and fishing and birding and hiking and rafting and camping a lot more!

I realize that I will always love you and the work and the agency we make, and if I waited for a time when I didn't love you, I would never leave. This makes leaving very difficult for me. I hope you will continue to give me all the love and support you can for the next four weeks, and beyond.

Yours truly,

Ted

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Ted Koch

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

P.O. Box 1306

Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

505-248-6644